ability she was extremely superficial in some things. Her assumption that she could, in virtue of a law, reduce the whole nation to the level of her own religious conceptions betrays a lack of insight into human nature. In this matter she saw no further than the limits of a court in which flattery represented her as a goddess, the measure of all perfection, the arbiter of all right. Her excessive self-consciousness and vanity contributed to augment this obtuseness. Such a ruler could not, in England at least, have permanently succeeded in scolding down opposition to her will, based on principle. In some respects the nation, as reflected by Parliament, was beginning to outrun its ruler. The revival of Parliament is, as we shall see, patent towards the close of her reign, and that of her successor was to witness a reaction which she had to some extent prepared.

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